

***INDUCED TERMINATIONS OF PREGNANCY:
STATE SUMMARY***

INDUCED TERMINATIONS OF PREGNANCY

INTRODUCTION

Purpose of Induced Termination of Pregnancy Surveillance

An *induced termination of pregnancy (abortion)* is the intentional interruption of a pregnancy with the objective of preventing a live birth. Abortion surveillance provides information useful in identifying population groups experiencing unintended pregnancies. Such information is valuable in targeting pregnancy prevention programs.

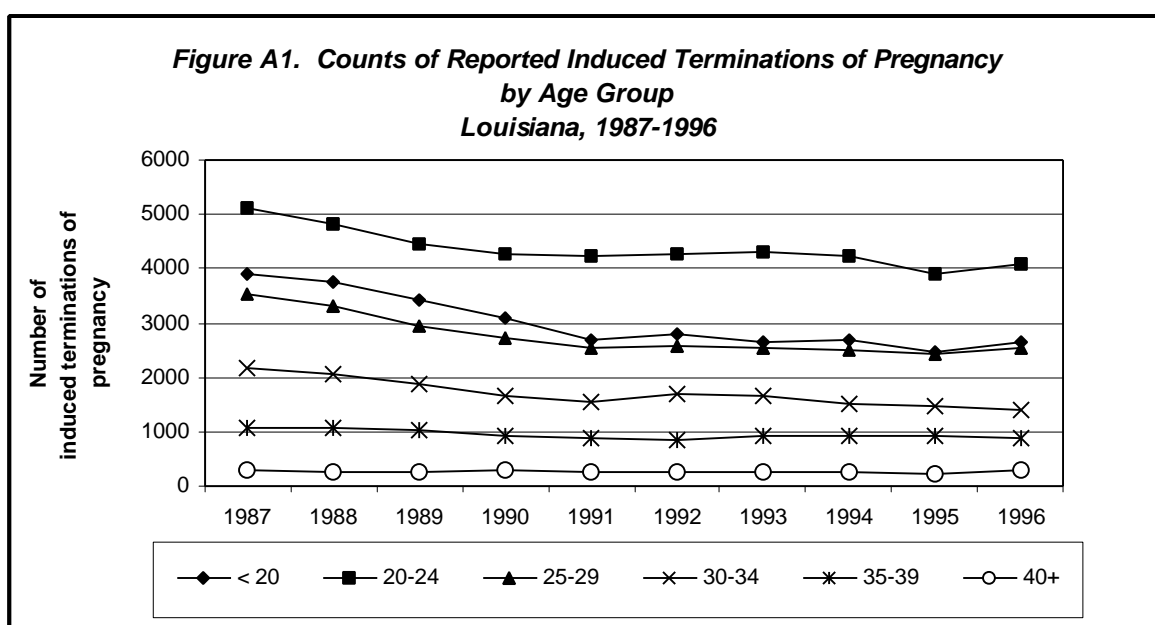
Source of Data: Report of Induced Termination of Pregnancy

Induced termination information presented in this report is gathered from data recorded on *Report of Induced Termination of Pregnancy* certificates for abortions that occurred in Louisiana in the 1996 calendar year. All original Induced Termination certificates flow to the Vital Records Registry in New Orleans. Data are recorded on the certificates by the attending physician. Louisiana law requires that each induced termination of pregnancy that occurs in the state be reported to the Vital Records Registry by the attending physician within 15 days of the pregnancy termination.

Although some states notify Louisiana of out-of-state pregnancy terminations obtained by Louisiana residents, Louisiana cannot reciprocate. A federal court decision prohibits the collection of residency information on women who terminate pregnancies within the state. Hence, no accurate counts of the number of terminations among Louisiana residents are available. Counts used in this chapter represent terminations that occurred in Louisiana, and include out-of-state residents who obtained induced terminations in Louisiana.

INDUCED TERMINATION COUNTS

- There were 11,884 induced terminations of pregnancy reported in Louisiana in 1996. This is an increase of 393 terminations from the 11,491 terminations reported in 1995 (Figure A1, Table A1).
- Although 1996 saw an increase in the number of reported terminations, there has been an overall decline in the number of terminations reported annually since the mid 1980s (Figure A1, Table A1).



Year	Total	Age in Years								
		Under 15	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45 & Older	Unk.
1987	16246	181	3715	5133	3518	2184	1070	297	12	136
1988	15367	187	3577	4815	3325	2056	1075	247	19	66
1989	14210	171	3236	4446	2929	1864	1048	245	10	261
1990	13020	150	2934	4287	2716	1670	938	267	14	44
1991	12190	128	2562	4221	2549	1543	878	260	13	36
1992	12468	191	2597	4288	2571	1683	838	237	15	48
1993	12373	157	2487	4300	2543	1667	917	259	15	28
1994	12154	169	2500	4215	2505	1517	929	257	17	45
1995	11491	141	2333	3895	2428	1468	936	226	11	53
1996	11884	143	2489	4083	2553	1417	876	262	16	45

- 87.1% of Louisiana's 1996 induced terminations were accomplished through suction (Table A2).
- 39.3% of terminations occurred prior to 9 weeks gestation; 48.8% occurred between 9 and 14 weeks gestation; 10.9% occurred after 15 weeks gestation (Table A2).

**Table A2. Counts of Reported Induced Terminations of Pregnancy
by Weeks of Gestation and Type of Procedure
Louisiana, 1996**

Weeks of Gestation	Total	Curettage		Intrauterine Instillation		Hysterotomy	Hysterectomy	Dilation and Evacuation	Other	Unknown
		Suction	Sharp	Saline	Prostaglandin					
All	11884	10356	15	-	-	-	-	197	10	1306
8 and under	4667	4254	6	-	-	-	-	6	-	401
9	1920	1659	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	260
10	1453	1253	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	197
11	888	757	2	-	-	-	-	-	1	128
12	742	652	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	90
13	521	444	2	-	-	-	-	1	1	73
14	277	243	1	-	-	-	-	2	-	31
15	281	234	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	46
16	218	156	-	-	-	-	-	27	-	35
17	150	106	-	-	-	-	-	20	1	23
18	109	78	-	-	-	-	-	31	-	-
19	130	97	-	-	-	-	-	27	1	5
20	80	60	-	-	-	-	-	18	-	2
21 and over	335	261	2	-	-	-	-	62	5	5
Unknown	113	102	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	10

- On 95.6% of induced termination certificates, no reason for obtaining the termination was reported (Table A3).

**Table A3. Counts of Reported Induced Terminations of Pregnancy
by Reason for Abortion and Age
Louisiana, 1996**

Reason for Abortion	Total	Age in Years								
		Under 15	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45 & Older	Unk.
All reasons	11884	143	2489	4083	2553	1417	876	262	16	45
Mental health	392	3	68	126	89	57	34	11	2	2
Physical health	8	-	-	2	2	1	2	1	-	-
Risk of fetal deformity	9	-	-	2	4	-	3	-	-	-
Rape or incest	4	-	-	-	2	1	-	1	-	-
Other	114	1	26	39	19	15	8	-	-	6
Unknown	11357	139	2395	3914	2437	1343	829	249	14	37

- When examined by race, 47.7% of 1996 terminations were obtained by whites, and 50.0% by non-whites (Table A4).
- Breakdown of terminations by marital status found that 9.0% of patients reported being married and 48.3% reported being unmarried. Marital status was unknown on 42.7% of termination certificates (Table A4).

Table A4 presents detailed counts of induced terminations by race, age, and marital status.

Table A4. Counts of Reported Induced Terminations of Pregnancy by Weeks of Gestation, Age, Race, and Marital Status Louisiana, 1996														
Weeks of Gestation	Race	Total	Age in Years									Marital Status		
			Under 15	15- 19	20- 24	25- 29	30- 34	35- 39	40- 44	45 & Older	Unk.	Married	Unmarried	Unknown
All	All	11884	143	2489	4083	2553	1417	876	262	16	45	1069	5735	5080
	W	5667	43	1246	1778	1203	721	519	131	8	18	676	2984	2007
	NW	5940	97	1202	2213	1269	665	337	125	8	24	366	2625	2949
	Unk	277	3	41	92	81	31	20	6	-	3	27	126	124
8 and under	All	4667	36	849	1584	1064	614	381	116	7	16	431	2160	2076
	W	2389	15	468	743	521	322	254	59	3	4	287	1222	880
	NW	2160	21	368	800	505	277	119	55	4	11	133	888	1139
	Unk	118	-	13	41	38	15	8	2	-	1	11	50	57
9	All	1920	15	355	641	447	259	129	64	3	7	220	947	753
	W	948	4	200	283	217	138	69	32	1	4	138	507	303
	NW	926	11	149	348	212	115	56	30	2	3	75	422	429
	Unk	46	-	6	10	18	6	4	2	-	-	7	18	21
10	All	1453	15	293	496	327	177	108	34	1	2	125	759	569
	W	681	5	150	209	147	95	55	18	1	1	75	385	221
	NW	740	8	139	276	173	78	50	15	-	1	47	359	334
	Unk	32	2	4	11	7	4	3	1	-	-	3	15	14
11	All	888	4	209	313	173	89	76	19	-	5	79	437	372
	W	393	1	96	128	71	43	44	6	-	4	50	219	124
	NW	475	3	107	178	97	45	31	13	-	1	27	206	242
	Unk	20	-	6	7	5	1	1	-	-	-	2	12	6
12	All	742	22	170	261	142	78	58	7	1	3	58	373	311
	W	317	7	85	95	56	38	30	5	-	1	36	178	103
	NW	408	15	83	159	81	39	26	2	1	2	22	186	200
	Unk	17	-	2	7	5	1	2	-	-	-	-	9	8
13	All	521	13	119	200	94	54	31	5	1	4	34	217	270
	W	225	3	51	77	46	26	17	2	1	2	19	108	98
	NW	286	9	66	119	47	28	13	3	-	1	14	105	167
	Unk	10	1	2	4	1	-	1	-	-	1	1	4	5

(Table A4 continues on the next page)

**Table A4 (continued). Counts of Reported Induced Terminations of Pregnancy
by Weeks of Gestation, Age, Race, and Marital Status
Louisiana, 1996**

Weeks of Gestation	Race	Total	Age in Years									Marital Status		
			Under 15	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45 & Older	Unk.	Married	Unmarried	Unknown
14	All	277	5	72	108	50	23	14	1	-	4	15	116	146
	W	109	1	26	41	25	7	7	1	-	1	6	49	54
	NW	162	4	46	62	25	16	6	-	-	3	9	63	90
	Unk	6	-	-	5	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	4	2
15	All	281	3	69	120	45	23	18	2	-	1	24	125	132
	W	129	-	31	57	21	8	10	1	-	1	15	68	46
	NW	147	3	36	61	24	14	8	1	-	-	8	54	85
	Unk	5	-	2	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	3	1
16	All	218	3	67	83	33	20	12	-	-	-	12	99	107
	W	86	1	23	29	17	9	7	-	-	-	8	39	39
	NW	131	2	44	54	15	11	5	-	-	-	3	60	68
	Unk	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
17	All	150	6	45	44	36	13	5	1	-	-	8	74	68
	W	57	2	18	16	12	4	4	1	-	-	4	27	26
	NW	89	4	26	26	23	9	1	-	-	-	4	46	39
	Unk	4	-	1	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3
18	All	109	1	31	38	20	10	7	1	-	1	9	55	45
	W	55	1	13	18	14	5	4	-	-	-	9	31	15
	NW	52	-	17	20	6	4	3	1	-	1	-	22	30
	Unk	2	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	2	-
19	All	130	3	36	44	29	9	6	1	2	-	12	78	40
	W	56	1	16	19	11	5	2	1	1	-	7	31	18
	NW	72	2	20	24	17	4	4	-	1	-	5	46	21
	Unk	2	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
20	All	80	4	35	19	5	7	5	4	1	-	5	46	29
	W	35	-	17	7	3	3	2	2	1	-	2	21	12
	NW	44	4	18	12	2	3	3	2	-	-	3	24	17
	Unk	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
21 and over	All	335	12	117	95	61	30	16	3	-	1	27	198	110
	W	140	2	43	40	28	16	10	1	-	-	15	77	48
	NW	186	10	70	54	30	14	6	2	-	-	11	116	59
	Unk	9	-	4	1	3	-	-	-	-	1	1	5	3
Unknown	All	113	1	22	37	27	11	10	4	-	1	10	51	52
	W	47	-	9	16	14	2	4	2	-	-	5	22	20
	NW	62	1	13	20	12	8	6	1	-	1	5	28	29
	Unk	4	-	-	1	1	1	-	1	-	-	-	1	3

